CIVIL HOSPITAL, TRICHUR—IMPROVEMENTS TO.

268. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): Will the Government be pleased to say:—

(*a*) what is the amount set apart for expenditure for improving the Civil Hospital at Trichur in 1114;

(*b*) how many additional beds will there be as a result of the improvements;

(*c*) what is the total amount fixed to be spent in the improvement scheme?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*) :

(*a*) Rs. 25,000.

(*b*) The present estimate provides for a building for 32 beds. This building will be extended in 1115 and this extension will also provide accommodation for 32 additional beds.

(*c*) Rs. 50,000.

TREATMENT OF SIRKAR ELEPHANTS.

269. Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) the number of pandaravaka elephants in the State and where they are kept;

(2) whether there are paid Government Servants other than Veterinary Inspectors for elephant-treatment; if so, who they are and the salary paid to each;

(3) how many elephants died during the last 12 months?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon (*Conservator of Forests*):

(1) Six elephants. They are stationed at different places, viz., one at Kuriarkutti, two at Kallampara, one at Karikadavu, and two at Palappilli.

(2) Yes. Elephant Vicharippu and his assistant; Rs. 50 and Rs. 25 a month respectively.

(3) Four elephants.

I may state before answering the question, that the figures printed here are those which were supplied before the last session. I may be permitted to give the correct figures.

(1) Nine elephants. They are stationed at different places, viz., one at Kuriarkutti, two at Kallampara, three at Palappilli and three at Parambikulam (under training).

(2) Yes, Elephant Vicharippu and his assistant; Rs. 50 and Rs. 25 a month respectively.

(3) Six elephants.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): May I know the cause of death of these six?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon (*Conservator of Forests*): Two of these died of anthrax. One was a baby elephant barely six months old which could not survive for long after separation from its mother. With regard to the three other animals death was due to complications consequent on injuries sustained during the fall.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): May I know whether the Government had not trained a Veterinary Inspector for elephant treatment some time back?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes. I think it may be helpful if I read some extracts from a Government Proceedings issued in 1924. "From time immemorial until 1079 all the State including Devaswam elephants had been in hereditary charge of the family of Kopparambil Nambiars who are specialists in the treatment of diseases of elephants. In 1079, consequent on the reorganisation of the department on modern lines by Mr. Alwar Chetty the services of the family were dispensed with and their work divided between a forester and a modern veterinarian. The attempt was not a success, and after fourteen years of bad capture and heavy mortality among the State animals, a Veterinary Surgeon from the State service was deputed for three months' special training in the Elephant Branch of the Madras Forest Department. Under his charge also the results continued to be unsatisfactory. In 1095 the Conservator recommended reversion to the old method and the appointment of a member of the Nambiar's family to be in charge under the old terms, but the Nambiar showed a tendency to dictate his own terms. Accordingly, another attempt was made to continue treatment and supervision by the best available Veterinary Surgeon in the State service, but the mortality still continued to be very large and captures proportionately small." The Nambiars since came to terms and in 1099 the existing arrangement was come to by which the appointment was made quasi-hereditary (it being left to the discretion of the Government to declare the appointment or appointments non-hereditary and non-pensionable at any time). A senior member of the family was to be entertained on a salary of Rs. 50 per mensem to be assisted by a junior on Rs. 25 whom the former was to train up. So long as any member of the family holds the appointment no member will be eligible for any pension. It is on these terms that the present incumbents hold their position. I can assert that conditions obtaining now compare favourably with what they have been at any time.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): May I know, Sir, what is the experience of the Government by reverting to the Ayurvedic system of elephant treatment?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon (*Conservator of Forests*): Comparatively, I think, the position has improved.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Have the Government taken the figures of elephant mortality when it was under the allopathic system and mortality under the Ayurvedic system which now exists?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon (*Conservator of Forests*): Comparative figures have not been compiled.

മിസ്റ്റർ. കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ഇപ്പോ നാലാനകളും ഒരു കഴിയിൽ വീണാണൊ ചത്തതു?

മിസ്റ്റർ. ടി. നാരായണമേനോൻ: ഒരു കഴിയിൽ വീണു ചത്തതല്ല. ഓരോരിക്കൽ ഓരോന്നു ചത്തു.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): May I know whether the services of a qualified veterinary surgeon were requisitioned at the time when the elephants were ill lately?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon (*Conservator of Forests*): In one or two instances when we had reason to doubt that the animal died of anthrax, a veterinary surgeon's services were requisitioned to make a microscopic examination of the blood.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): May I know, Sir, whether this *Anavicharippu* is a hereditary office?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon (*Conservator of Forests*): As I have already stated, it is a quasi-hereditary appointment, i. e., it is left to the Government to declare the appointment non-hereditary at any time.

മിസ്റ്റർ. കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: കൊച്ചിറമ്പിൽ നമ്പ്യാന്മാർ ആന ചികിത്സക്കു വലിയ വിദഗ്ദ്ധന്മാരാണൊ?

മിസ്റ്റർ. ടി. നാരായണമേനോൻ: അവർ വളരെക്കാലമായി ചികിത്സ നടത്തി വരുന്നവരാണു.

STORE-KEEPER—MEDICAL STORES—QUALIFICATION OF.

270. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) who is in charge of the medical stores under the Medical Department;

(*b*) whether he is a medically qualified man?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly